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By: **Senators McFadden, Blount, Bromwell, and Hoffman**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Election Law - Baltimore City - Required Notice of Elections by Newspaper**  
3                                   **Advertisement - Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that the Baltimore City Board of  
5 Elections give notice of elections by advertisement in each daily newspaper  
6 published in the City; and generally relating to notice of elections in Baltimore  
7 City.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article 33 - Election Code  
10 Section 8-102  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15                                   **Article 33 - Election Code**

16 8-102.

17 (a) Except as required under [subsections (d) and (f)] SUBSECTION (D) of this  
18 section, a local board shall provide notice of each election in its county to the  
19 registered voters of the county by either:

20                   (1) Specimen ballot mailed at least 1 week before the election; or

1 (2) Publication or dissemination by mass communication during the  
2 calendar week preceding the election.

3 (b) The notice shall include:

4 (1) The time and place of the election; and

5 (2) The offices, candidate names, and questions contained on the ballot.

6 (c) (1) If a local board provides notice by mailing specimen ballots, a  
7 specimen ballot shall be mailed to all registered voters in the county who are eligible  
8 to vote in the election.

9 (2) The specimen ballot shall be a facsimile of the ballot that the voter is  
10 entitled to vote in the election.

11 (d) (1) In Prince George's County for the general election, the Board shall:

12 (i) Provide notice by mailing specimen ballots; and

13 (ii) Mail a specimen ballot to the household of each registered voter  
14 in the County.

15 (2) The costs for mailing specimen ballots in Prince George's County  
16 shall be included in the County's annual budget appropriation to the local board.

17 (e) (1) Unless a local board mails a specimen ballot to its registered voters in  
18 accordance with subsection (c) or (d) of this section, the local board shall give notice of  
19 the election by newspaper publication or other means of mass communication.

20 (2) The notice of election under this subsection shall be arranged, if  
21 practicable, in the same order and form as the ballot.

22 (3) (i) If newspaper publication is used in a county, the notice shall be  
23 advertised in at least two newspapers of general circulation that are published in the  
24 county.

25 (ii) In a county in which only one newspaper is published, the  
26 notice shall be published in that newspaper.

27 [(f) (1) In the City of Baltimore, the local board:

28 (i) Shall give notice of an election by advertisement in each daily  
29 newspaper published in the City; and

30 (ii) May give notice in any weekly or semiweekly newspaper that  
31 has a circulation of 20,000 or more subscribers.

32 (2) A newspaper may not charge the local board for Baltimore City a fee  
33 for an advertisement under this paragraph that exceeds its rate for commercial  
34 advertising.]

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 2001.